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Marjorie Perloff, Avant-Garde Critic, Saluted at Conference

ORANGE, Calif., Feb. 10, 2010 -- Dr. Marjorie Perloff, the pre-eminent critic of the avant-garde in literature, has donated her personal library to the Chapman University Leatherby Libraries. On Thursday, February 25, 2010, the Leatherby Libraries and Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the English Department and the poetry forum, Tabula Poetica, will honor this gift with a daylong celebration entitled: Marjorie Perloff: Reconfiguring the Avant-Garde.

Dr. Perloff has authored 14 books of criticism and theory and hundreds of articles. She has lectured around the world. She has received almost every prize, fellowship, and honor available to an international scholar, including serving as president of the Modern Language Association. She is professor emeriti at Stanford University and currently is Scholar in Residence at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Perloff has led the way in defining the work of the Avant-Garde, especially in literature. says Martin Nakell, Professor of English at Chapman University. Her work has proven seminal in perceiving what is important in the creative world and how and why. Over and over again she has challenged our cultural prejudices and pre-conceptions.

Dr. Perloff holds one of the largest personal libraries in the world, more than 10,000 volumes. This collection will make Chapman one of the best endowed libraries in the field of Avant-Garde literature.

The donation of Dr. Perloff's library is accompanied by a gift from Dr. and Mrs. David Fite to support the Perloff Collection. Dr. Fite was a student of Marjorie Perloff and former Vice Chancellor of Chapman University. He is currently Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Redlands.

What: Marjorie Perloff: Reconfiguring the Avant-Garde

When: Thursday, February 25, 2010

2:30 p.m. Panel Discussion, Marjorie Perloff and the Avant-Garde

4:30 p.m. The Audacity of Hope: Futurist Utopias in the Early Twentieth Century, an address by Dr. Perloff.

Reception to follow, Malloy Performance Portico, Leatherby Libraries

Where: Harriett and Mohindar S. Sandy Sandhu Conference Center, Chapman University, Orange, California.

The event is free and open to the public.

For information call: 714-532-7742 or visit www.chapman.edu/library